

# RESOURCES

NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUME 6, NO. 1 WINTER 2006

## EMBRACING STEWARDSHIP

By Hal Strickland, Chairman, Park Authority Board

*Can you imagine Fairfax County without its parks and trees, without birds or other wildlife, with its rich historic landmarks demolished? Hard to imagine, but without assertive stewardship of remaining county heritage, this dim vision could become a reality. Right now, our beautiful parks and green areas (23,000+ acres in 380 parks) feature stately sycamores and ancient oaks, rushing streams, eagles and other wildlife, and exquisite wildflowers. We also have acclaimed nature centers, significant historic sites, an early 20th century working farm in Frying Pan Park, and the remarkable Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center. These resources require active and thoughtful management to ensure their preservation so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.*



Colvin Run Mill

Stewardship is critical to the Park Authority. It's in our Mission Statement. It's in our Strategic Planning. It's in the Natural Resource Management Plan, and will soon be part of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. But most importantly, the citizens of Fairfax County expect and rely upon us to be the stewards of the resources entrusted in our care. It is a demanding responsibility. The message I bring to you is that: We Accept.

The Park Authority has always been a steward of the county's environmental resources. But here in Fairfax County, we are now realizing that our involvement in stewardship is much bigger than just owning land. Stewardship requires deliberate planning and action.

### What is Stewardship?

As defined by the Park Authority, stewardship is the careful, responsible and sustainable management of the natural and cultural resources entrusted to the Park Authority by the citizens of Fairfax County for present and future generations.

Staff is working diligently in many different areas of the environment, along with many different County agencies. All of these efforts fit together, almost like puzzle pieces, to show a clear picture emerging of Fairfax County as Resource Stewards. And the Park Authority understands we have many pieces of this puzzle.

The Park Authority is the primary owner of open space in the county. Chairman Connolly has even challenged us to step up that role and

increase our parkland ownership to represent 10% of county land. We hold most of the natural resource land base in the county — the water, air, land and wild-life critters entrusted to our care.

Parkland serves as wildlife corridors and much of the wild-life management that occurs in the county is on parkland. Our natural areas, stream valley parks, protect our watershed and streams. We work with the county on watershed planning and other projects to ensure they continue to be protected. We work to protect the vegetation and habitat in these natural areas. And we are working with the county to change landscaping practices and use more natural methods — all to reduce impacts to the environment and preserve as much natural land as we can.

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## MARK YOUR NEW 2006 CALENDARS

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 8:30am-4pm**

**Green Spring Master Gardeners Proudly Present the 2nd Annual**

**EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium: Techniques for Keeping Our Planet Healthy**

The EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium will bring together experts to share practical information for using native plants as alternatives to invasives, reducing lawn to create biodiversity, keeping the Chesapeake Bay clean and other environmental issues. To register, please call **703-642-5173**. Registration: \$45, boxed lunch: \$10 additional (please specify meat or vegetarian). Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and supported by Fairfax County Park Authority and Green Spring Gardens.

**SATURDAY, MAY 6**

**You won't want to miss the Cross County Trail Fest!** That's the day the Park Authority is planning the largest county-wide event ever to dedicate the new Cross County Trail and open it for community use. A stunning achievement, the 40+ mile-long Cross County Trail is the result of numerous county agencies (including the Park Authority) working together. In a nutshell, the Cross County Trail connects a green network of multi-use trails for the enjoyment of fast walkers, slow strollers, equestrians and cyclists. Read all about it in the winter issue of *ParkTakes* and visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) for upcoming details.

### NATIVE PLANT AND GARDENING INFO

Green Spring Gardens' website has a wide range of gardening information ([www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org)). Click on "Gardening" on the website to read and/or download 19 excellent plant information sheets. Brenda Skarphol, Green Spring Gardens' Curatorial Horticulturist has just added another plant information sheet on hardy bulbs. She has also put woody plant accession records (updated in March 2005) on the website.

### Children's Programs at Hidden Oaks Nature Center

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 and SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

**Naturalist Corner (3-12 yrs.), 10am-3pm, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 703-941-1065.**

Budding artists and naturalists are encouraged to drop by and explore over a dozen leaning and craft stations at their own pace. Make crafts to take home. Teen volunteers welcome to participate as naturalist assistants with advanced notice. Reservations for groups requested. All children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5/person

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

**Sharing Nature with Preschoolers for Parents and Other Caregivers**

(Adults), 9-10am Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 703-941-1065. Parents and other caregivers will discover activities, crafts, songs, games and more introducing your toddler or preschooler to the wonders of nature through naturalist-led activities. Seasonal activity booklet provided to each adult participant. Childcare available for ages 2-5 with naturalist volunteers who will lead them in nature play and activities. Reservations and advanced payment required for adults and children. \$10/adult \$5/child



Children love park programs.



### EQUAL ACCESS/SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at **703-324-8563**, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator 703-324-8563 • TTY 703-803-3354 • [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm)

BURKE LAKE PARK  
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station  
Call 703-323-6600

COLVIN RUN MILL  
10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls  
Call 703-759-2771

ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK  
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly  
Call 703-631-0013

FRYING PAN PARK  
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon  
Call 703-437-9101

GREEN SPRING GARDENS  
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria  
Call 703-642-5173

HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER  
7701 Royce Street, Annandale  
Call 703-941-1065

HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER  
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield  
Call 703-451-9588

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK  
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria  
Call 703-768-2525

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK  
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield  
Call 703-569-3464

LAKE FAIRFAX PARK  
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston  
Call 703-471-5414

RIVERBEND PARK  
8700 Potomac Hills Street  
Great Falls  
Call 703-759-9018

SULLY HISTORIC SITE  
Sully Road, Chantilly  
Call 703-437-1794

**Need directions or more information? VISIT**  
**[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)**

## RESOURCES

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# The Open Space Land Preservation Fund

Nancy Russo, Grants Coordinator, Fairfax County Park Foundation

**Y**ou can help to protect green spaces throughout the county. The Open Space Land Preservation Fund is a way for county residents to provide stewardship for remaining open land integral to our quality of life here in Fairfax County.

Picturesque neighborhood parks, offering recreation, fresh air and tranquility, make the county a desirable place to live and to work. Throughout the seasons, children and adults love to explore their natural environment, learning about living creatures and the wonders of the ecosystem. Green spaces with groundcover, shrubs and trees naturally retain and filter groundwater and protect our drinking supplies. Trees also reduce air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide, and they provide comfortable shade in the muggy heat of our summers.

Our treasured and valuable green spaces are diminishing; quickly being replaced with impervious rooftops, pavement and concrete surfaces. If we do not act soon, we will lose the opportunity to preserve pleasant, quiet areas with trees, streams and fields throughout Fairfax County for now and for future generations.

"Open Space" legacy gifts and land donations to the Fairfax County Park Foundation are used to acquire and protect tracts of land critical to conserving natural habitat and cultural heritage. So far, donors to the Open Space Land Preservation Fund have helped to acquire properties that will be turned into new community parks and add acreage to protected lands and watersheds. Join those who are recognizing the importance of green spaces in time to have a significant impact on efforts to preserve the open county land that is left.

## The Open Space Land Preservation Fund

### For information:

Call 703-324-8581 or e-mail

Robert.Brennan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

### To donate online: visit

[www.fairfaxcountyparkfoundation.com/involved.html](http://www.fairfaxcountyparkfoundation.com/involved.html)

### To donate by mail:

Send your check made payable to the

Fairfax County Park Foundation

(please write "Open Space" on the memo line), to:

Fairfax County Park Foundation

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 404

Fairfax, VA 22035

*The Fairfax County Park Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.*

*The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.*

— John Muir



## Natural Resource Management is Happening!

**N**atural resource management of our county parklands is so vast in terms of the depth and breadth of activities, it can make your head spin. There are plant and wildlife inventories to be done, assessment of water resources, coming up with policies and park planning, land acquisitions, trouble-shooting wildlife conflicts and encroachments on parklands, restoring protective stream buffers, working with nonprofit partners and other county agencies on natural resource issues, making public presentations, and educating the public. That's for starters.

Nevertheless, the dynamic three-person team of experts that comprises the Natural Resource Management and Protection (NRMP) Section of the Resource Management Division does it with passion and aplomb. Headed up by Manager Heather Schinkel, with Senior Natural Resource Specialist Charles Smith and Natural Resource Specialist Meghan Fellows, the team has already initiated 75 of the 111 strategies in the two-year-old Park Authority Natural Resource Management Plan which was developed in 2004.

"We've had a productive year in 2005," Heather comments, "and having the Natural Resource Management Plan makes all the difference. We got the ball rolling on a lot of projects and we're looking forward to keeping up the momentum. Areas of emphasis this past year included education, policy, partnerships, low impact development, and geographic information systems or mapping. Meghan, Charles and I are grateful to get to be a part of such important work and to feel like we are making a difference."

Here are some of the areas the Natural Resource Management and Protection team works in:

### Natural Resource Policy and Strategic Planning

The NRMP Section makes recommendations related to resource protection on County and Park Authority policy and strategic planning.

### Resource Management

The NRMP Section conducts inventories and develops management plans for resource management in a number of areas. These include:

- **Resource Inventories and Plans** Conducting plant and wildlife inventories on parklands and coming up with resource management plans for maintaining and restoring the health of the area.
- **Wildlife Conflict Management** Managing wildlife conflicts, particularly with deer, beaver and Canada Geese, and working with the county wildlife biologist.
- **Watershed Planning and Water Resources** To help protect county watersheds and stream health, the team routinely works with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) throughout the county developing management strategies and implementing projects. One component of this is stream buffer restoration, i.e., replenishing protective vegetation

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## Cultural Resource Protection Rules!

**L**iz Crowell, manager of the Cultural Resource Protection division, is on the run. She's juggling meetings, site visits, conferences, staff activities, reports and publications. Top of her list these days, is coordinating the 25-person team of experts that is drafting the new Cultural Resource Management Plan. Liz takes a breath and smiles, "We've never been busier. These are incredibly exciting times for cultural resource protection. Right now, we're building the foundation for historical and archaeological protection in Northern Virginia for the 21st century, for years to come."



Heather Schinkel and Liz Crowell

The process for creating the Cultural Resource Management Plan has been meticulous. A team was formed with specialists from the Park Authority, the county, the Architectural Review Board and the History Commission. In addition, the draft of the plan will go

through a thorough review process before being adopted. "But it's worth every bit of effort," Crowell adds, "It will help us to preserve and protect our county's valuable heritage."

Crowell explains, "Important events that shaped our history happened here, in Fairfax County. We work with evidence of Native American life, the colonial era, 19th century development, the Civil War, right through to WWII. Artifacts from these times are often right under our feet and preserving these clues to the past is a priority. Cultural Resource's paid and volunteer staff of archaeologists and historians are like detectives. They fit together clues that reveal the picture of Virginia life in the past. Archaeology gives all people a voice — illuminating the unrecorded experience of American Indians, African American freemen and enslaved, women, children and ordinary citizens."

### The Cultural Resource Management Plan

The Cultural Resource Management Plan will be a companion document to the Natural Resource Management Plan adopted in 2004. A draft of the Plan is under review, and is anticipated to be adopted by the Park Authority Board this spring. Many aspects of the plan are already in motion.

Comprehensive and far-reaching, the plan addresses a wide range of elements and recommends strategies for addressing issues that affect cultural resource stewardship. These are:

1. **Cultural Resource Planning** This section of the plan will present issues including master planning, land acquisition, development plan review, and other planning processes that affect cultural resources. Examples of projects include the General Management Plans and Conceptual Development Plans prepared for Ox Hill Battlefield Park and Confederate Fortifications Historic Site (Union Mills).
2. **Archaeology** This section describes the steps required in an archaeological study; the issues faced, and strategies we propose to work more efficiently. This includes the use of GIS data to predict

*continued on page 10*



Mona Enquist-Johnston

# OUR SHINING STARS

By Mona Enquist-Johnston, Manager, Volunteer, Interpretive and Program Services

Winter is a perfect time to stargaze. On clear, crisp winter nights you can almost touch the stars and hear their stories. In the universe of parks we also have stars — talented volunteers who received agency and division awards last fall. Meet them and hear their stories.

## Incredible Facts about Resource Management Division Volunteers

- ✓ 738 terrific, active volunteers.
- ✓ 77% of the RMD workforce are volunteers.
- ✓ 111 have served the county for more than 10 years.
- ✓ 17 have demonstrated their commitment to parks by volunteering for 20+ years.
- ✓ 178 youth volunteers under the age of 18.
- ✓ Ignite an interest in history, horticulture and nature in students and visitors each year.
- ✓ 2005 Elly Doyle Park Service Award recipient, Nick Yannarell has accrued more than 22,000 hours interpreting, researching, improving and promoting our parks.
- ✓ Volunteers such as Nick Yannarell, Marianne Mooney, Betty Holman, Joyce Moore and Elizabeth Petersen each work at two sites.

## Park Stars

### 2005 Elly Doyle Award Recipients for the Fairfax County Park Authority

- ★ Nick Yannarell (*Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park*)
- ★ Joe Wilkinson (*Frying Pan Park*) Student Honoree
- ★ Earth Sangha (*Natural Resource Management and Protection*)
- ★ William Edward Pickens III (*Cross County Trail*)

### 2005 Volunteer Excellence Award for the Resource Management Division

- ★ Jerry Maravetz (*Frying Pan Park*)
- ★ Marianne Mooney (*Huntley Meadows Park, Green Spring Gardens*)
- ★ Joyce Moore (*Sully Historic Site, Frying Pan Park*)

## Here are some of the stellar things our stars do:

### Use Tools to Teach

At Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, long-time volunteer Nick Yannarell uses his engineering experience, love of history and interpretive skills to educate visitors about the 19th century water-powered gristmill. Every Wednesday he greets buses full of schoolchildren. Together they explore the mill, examining the simple machines that made the miller's job easier. Afterwards he guides them as they try out other simple tools.

### Plant Stewardship

Since 2002, Earth Sangha, a nonprofit organization, has been planting stewardship in our parks. On a given day members might be directing an invasive species removal, planning a native pollinator garden with high school students, planting natives along a stream or weeding the nursery they founded to ensure that the Park Authority has a source for local plants. Their actions improve parkland and inspire others.

## Start at an Early Age

Beginning as a volunteer three years ago when he was ten-years-old, Joseph Wilkinson has experienced the county's agricultural roots and developed new skills at Frying Pan Park. He guides visitors through the farm house, transcribes historic documents and represents other youth volunteers as a member of park's long-standing support group, the Founders, Benefactors, Supervisors and Friends of Frying Pan Park.

## Tinker with Machinery and Drive Tractors!

That's what volunteer Jerry Maravetz does. Jerry, who grew up on an Iowa farm, repairs antique equipment so that it can be used at Kidwell Farm, a 1930's demonstration farm. He also transports people back in time as a weekly hayride driver at Frying Pan Park.



Jerry Maravetz

## Capture Interest in Nature

For more than 11 years, Marianne Mooney has welcomed visitors and piqued interest in park resources while volunteering at the front desk, leading programs, writing articles and log book entries. Fall enfolds you with her log book entry for 9/9/02, "Fall is definitely in the air with early morning temperatures at 58°. It's also the start of one of the most beautiful seasons at Huntley. Mists rise from the wetlands in the early hours, sunlight catches the dew on elaborate spider webs and there's always the promise of good birds..."

## Breathe Life into History

Volunteer Joyce Moore ensures that history becomes engaging and meaningful to students through questions, stories, costumes, touchable objects and by listening carefully. She gets people to think and probe, opening eyes and minds to the importance of history. Teachers ask for her.



Joyce Moore

These stars and all Resource Management Division volunteers brighten parks everyday. Find out about our stellar Volunteer Program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or call 703-324-8750.

# BETTER THAN EVER

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION PROJECTS

*RMD stands for Resource Management Division, the part of the Park Authority that's primarily responsible for managing natural, historical and horticultural resources, along with other Park Authority and county agencies. At any given time, the sheer number of projects RMD handles can be amazing. Take a look at just a few of the current projects that will make our parklands better than ever.*



The Cross Country Trail opens on May 6th. See p. 2

### The Frying Pan Park Cider Press

Frying Pan Park is pleased to present the acquisition and restoration of an early 20th century cider press. Donated by county citizen Vera Jones, the large commercial cider press operated from the 1920s to 1940s. Most of the apples from Lorton and Burke orchards were processed through this press as growers brought their apples to the press to be converted to apple cider. You can look forward to seeing this new addition to Frying Pan this Spring, 2006.

### Historic Huntley

Friends and fans of the historic home adjacent to Huntley Meadows Park, known as Historic Huntley, will soon see the start of a valuable stabilization program of the exteriors of the historic structures and preservation of the cultural landscapes at the core of the site. This initial phase of work is expected to be completed sometime in 2007.



Historic Huntley

### Turner Farm

The citizens of Great Falls have embraced the addition of Turner Farm Park to the community, much to the benefit of all. Located at the intersection of Spring Hill Road and Georgetown Pike, Turner Farm will be featuring riding arenas and a cross-country course for equestrians by Summer, 2006. Also, resulting from the involvement of the astronomy-oriented Analemma Society, the park serves as a gathering place for star-gazers on Friday nights. This summer, the group will even be offering a week-long astronomy science camp for children (look for it in Spring *ParkTakes*).

### Mt. Air Historic Site

Mt. Air was an 18th century estate, donated to the Park Authority by the last owner. Although the house sadly burned down in 1992, the Resource Management Division with the assistance of other Park Authority divisions is currently turning Mt. Air into a 15-acre cultural resource park, complete with preserved and stabilized ruins of the house, walkways, gardens and interpretive signs on the site's history.

Opening the park for community use is projected for April, 2006.



Archaeology at Mt. Air





## Jamestown 2007

Our heritage interpreters have been hard at work creating wonderful programs for the Jamestown 2007 celebration. Read all about it on page 8.

## Renovation of the Horticultural Library at Green Spring Gardens

The Horticultural Library at Green Spring Gardens is the largest repository of horticultural books and information in Northern Virginia. This bibliographic treasure is finally getting new digs at Green Spring Gardens. Plan your visit after it reopens in January 2006, the perfect way to spend a winter afternoon.



Equestrian events at Frying Pan Park

## New Horse Stables at Frying Pan Park

Frying Pan is home to a number of national and regional equestrian events for show and practice. In 2007, our local riders and visiting equine guests will have nice new stables and support facilities. This project is the result of the park bond passing in 2004, with some funds earmarked for renovation and upgrades.

## Construction at Sully

As Sully Historic Site grows in reach and world-wide visitor interest, its presentation to the public will also be growing. Sully staff and friends are looking forward to the design and construction of a new entrance road and parking lot (using low-impact practices for managing stormwater), plus new landscaped visitor walkways, complete with interpretive signs — all adding to Sully's charm and atmosphere, plus making access to the park easier.

## Frying Pan Park Visitor Center (Ellmore Farm)

Right in Frying Pan Park, the new Visitor Center is a most welcome addition to our community. A former barn converted into a church in 1989, the three buildings and grounds were purchased by the Park Authority in 2000. Newly renovated, it's open for community business including being available for rental and classes. Most recently, the first Annual Fairfax County History Conference took place there (see p. 11).



Frying Pan Park Visitor Center

## Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Hidden Oaks Nature Center will be the site of a low-impact construction project, meaning healthier for the environment, as experts construct a new environmentally 'green' parking lot for the Nature Center. The new lot is projected to be open in 2007 with more spaces for visitor's automobiles and a parking area for school buses.

## Ox Hill Battlefield Park

Located at the corner of West Ox Road and Monument Drive, the 4.5-acre Ox Hill Battlefield Park will be going through some changes to re-establish the Civil War-era cultural landscape. The site's master plan includes an information kiosk, interpretive signs, monuments, trails and benches. Designs even include the reconstruction of zig-zag rail fences and a corn field on the site where the original Battle of Ox Hill occurred on September 1, 1862. Work on the site is targeted for completion in 2007.

Check your winter issue of *ParkTakes* or call the park nearest you (listed on page 2) to learn about and sign up for winter star-gazing programs.

## Set Sail to Discover Jamestown 2007 – America's 400th Anniversary

Set sail for discovery in 2006 and 2007! The Fairfax County Park Authority invites you to explore the lives and times of people from Virginia's past 400 years. Step into their shoes as you listen to their music, travel their routes, learn some of their survival skills and hear their stories. Follow their footprints as you learn to read the "clues" that they left behind in journals, objects, names and other places. You may uncover something about yourself as you consider, "*Could I have survived those earlier times?*"

Park programs offered this year will explore earlier times when survival depended upon being able to feed yourself and your family by growing crops such as corn and by trapping wild turkeys or hunting deer.

See the History section of Winter *Parktakes* for more details on these winter programs at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park or call 703-631-0013:

- \* **Turkey Traps**, December 17
- \* **Oh Deer**, January 8
- \* **Ice Making in 19th Century Fairfax**, January 14
- \* **Mammal Tracking**, January 15

*"An Opossum hath a head like a Swine, and a tail like a Rat, and is the bigness of a cat."*

— Captain John Smith

Find out how the land around us has changed during the last four centuries. Don't



just read about these changes — explore them via kayak tours on the Potomac, around campfires and on naturalist-led walks through parks. You'll examine native plants that helped generations survive, learn which were introduced by settlers, study native wildlife and uncover the origins of many animal names we use today.

Like Jamestown centuries ago, Fairfax County is a vibrant place because of the diverse cultural backgrounds of those who live here. During 2006, park programs and exhibits will commemorate Virginia's cultural heritage, especially the cultures of Virginia's Indians, the English and the Africans, all of whom played key roles in shaping the past, present and future of our state.

Exhibits and hands-on activities at Huntley Meadows Park and Riverbend Park visitor centers will highlight the rich culture of Virginia Indians. Families can also discover the real story of *Pocahontas: A Woman of*

*Many Faces* at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. *Shades of Changes* at Frying Pan Park and *Hands-on History* and *Banjoes and Bones* at Sully Historic Site highlight African Americans who arrived in Jamestown beginning in 1619. Music of the Jamestown era will fill the air at Hidden Oaks and Huntley Meadows Park. A case exhibit at Sully Historic Site will highlight worldwide trade. Public programs at Cub Run RECenter will explore the importance of waterways for transportation, food supply and commerce during the 17th and 18th centuries.

See the Event and History section of *Parktakes* or call the park listed for more details on these winter programs:

- \* **Celebrate African-American History Month**, February 1-27, Sully Historic Site 703-437-1794
- \* **Hands-on History: the Work of their Hands**, February 18, Sully Historic Site 703-437-1794
- \* **Shades of Change**, February 20 at Ellmore Farm Center, Frying Pan Park 703-439-9109
- \* **Banjoes, Bones and Tales**, February 25, Sully Historic Site 703-437-1794

Use future issues of *Parktakes* as your compass for discovery or call the parks for more information. You'll find details on additional programs, events and exhibits for 2007 — America's 400th Anniversary in the spring, summer and fall of 2006, so join your parks in celebrating our national heritage.



### First Four Stewardship Education Brochures Completed

The Park Authority has just published the first four in a series of beautiful, informative brochures which explain stewardship and its benefits to the public. The brochures include ***Treasures***, ***Wildlife***, ***Invasive Backyard Plants***, and ***Invasive Forest Plants***. The brochures explain the County's commitment to the protection of natural and cultural resources and provide ways for groups and individuals to become good stewards.

The brochures are available at Park Authority sites, local libraries and the Park Authority headquarters. For more information, to download a brochure or to request a copy, call 703-324-8580 or visit Stewardship on the Web at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/stewardship.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/stewardship.htm)



# Do You Know about Museum Collections?

By Jeanne Niccolls and Susan Clark

**M**useum Collections is a vital component of Park Authority stewardship. The staff maintains and protects significant 18th, 19th and 20th century objects, pottery, glassware, furniture, documents and photographs, clothing, even lamps and toys — all relating to Fairfax County history.



1930 Fairfax County 4-H Fair Ribbon

That's a tall order. It includes material goods connected to notable Fairfax County families, historic buildings, communities and citizens. But that's not all; it also includes historical objects associated with the growth and development of Fairfax County or civic organizations. A wire bingo spinner used in the 1930s at the Great Falls Grange, a wine glass given to the Lees by George Washington, an art pottery vase owned by the Clark family, ribbons won at the Fairfax County 4-H Fair, original photographs of Colvin Run Mill and the contents of the time capsule found at Walney are just a few of many intriguing examples of objects in the collections.

Preservation of all these historic objects is just part of the picture. The staff also supports education and interpretive programs at the county's historic sites and produces exhibits, promoting appreciation and stewardship of the county's extraordinary history, state-wide and nationally. Jeanne Niccolls, Collections Manager comments, *"Museum Collections help enhance the stories presented at our historic site museums and parks by providing original objects that are so compelling to visitors and school children."*

Here are a few remarkable facts about the Resource Management Division's amazing Museum Collections staff:

◆ **Professional Recognition** Our Museum Collections Section is recognized for its excellence in management and stewardship of the materials in their care. It's not unusual for the staff to field calls and help out museum colleagues from across the nation. In 2002 the Museum Collections Section was accredited by the American Association of Museums along with Sully Historic Site and Colvin Run Mill.



Wine glass given to the Lees by George Washington

◆ **Specialized Technology** Staff uses specialized software to record data about each object they maintain, such as its age and condition, where it is located, plus photographs of every item. Can you imagine recording data for over 6,000 objects? Well that's what our Collections staff does.

◆ **Publications, Presentations and Partnerships** In addition to publishing professional papers and articles, staff members often work in partnership with area universities, libraries and historical societies. Each year, in conjunction with the History Department at George Mason University, they produce the Annual Collections Symposium, now in its 17th year. They frequently give presentations for community and also for professional museum organizations like the Virginia Association of Museums and the Small Museum Association.

◆ **Museum Quality Care** The Park Authority follows museum practices and professional standards of stewardship in caring for and preserving its historic object collections and maintaining them as a legacy for future generations.

◆ **Valuable Fairfax County Resource** Local professionals and the public alike often turn to our Collections team for answers on preservation and to unravel mysteries relating to their family treasures.

◆ **Donations** If you have historic materials associated with our historic sites or county history that you would like to donate to the Park Authority, please call Collections Management at 703-631-1429. Please note that limited space and resources may play a role in making the best decision for acceptance of offered materials.

Art pottery vase owned by the Clark family.



## RECENT EXHIBITS

- 🔍 "Paris Porcelain" – Sully
- 🔍 "Historic Sites in Mason District" – Clark House
- 🔍 "Fashions in Quilts" – Sully (*Annual Quilt Show* exhibit)
- 🔍 "Experience History and Family Fun at FCPA Sites" – Celebrate Fairfax

## Opening in 2006

- 🔍 "Jamestown Sundial" – Fairfax County Government Center
- 🔍 "From Around the Globe – Worldwide Trade Ties to Sully" – Sully



Earliest known photograph of Colvin Run Mill

## ONLINE EXHIBITS

Museum Collections produces exhibits of Fairfax County Park Authority historic objects online. Current online exhibits are "Historic Resources on Mills and Milling" and "Recent Acquisitions." Look for forthcoming exhibits on ceramics and Civil War items in the Collections.

To enjoy these online exhibits, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/collections/exhibits.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/collections/exhibits.htm)

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued from page 4*

along stream banks. This past year, stream buffer restoration took place at Luria Park, Carney Park, Greendale Golf Course, Poplar Tree, Folly Lick Park, Laurel Hill, and Lake Fairfax Park. Several more sites are planned for this fall. In conjunction with DPWES, ongoing clean-ups of trash and illegally dumped waste in our precious streams are also part of the agenda.

- **Technical Support** The team provides natural resource knowledge and training to park staff and other county agencies regarding water resources, vegetative resources, wildlife resources, natural landscaping and resource inventory methods.
- **Land Acquisition** This involves advising and reviewing plans for the Park Authority on land acquisition in two areas: (1) Land acquisitions targeted for development are evaluated for potential conflicts with resource protection, and (2) recommending the acquisition of land that has valuable natural resources.
- **Park Planning and Development** Working in concert with park planners to develop appropriate plans for park development that protect natural resources.

- **Partnerships** The NRMP Section relies on many partners for technical support, resource management and outreach. This includes a unique partnership with Earth Sangha in which they are developing and managing Marie Butler Leven Preserve as a native arboretum.
- **Outreach and Education** The NRMP Section promotes stewardship through partnerships, volunteers and internal and external outreach and education efforts.

### LEARN MORE BY VISITING

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-nrp.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-nrp.htm)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp\\_nature.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp_nature.htm)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources)

## CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION *continued from page 4*

the location of archaeological sites, archaeological survey, evaluation, excavation, interpretation and protection. Archaeological studies include the study that allowed for the reconstruction of the slave quarters; archaeological survey of Meadowood Farm that recorded more than 200 historic and Native American sites; and archaeology at Historic Huntley that contributed to our understanding of the early layout of the house, among many others.

3. **Civil War Sites** This element acknowledges the 800+ resources identified by the BOS-funded Civil War Sites Inventory and mandates further documentation of Civil War sites. It also proposes identification, protection and interpretation of Civil War resources. Civil War sites include the Ox Hill Battlefield; Fort Willard; the location in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park where Boston Corbett (who later shot John Wilkes Booth) camped; and “Mosby’s Rock” where John Singleton Mosby met with Confederate spies.
4. **Artifacts and Collections** (*not to be confused with Museum Collections on p.9*). The plan sets down strategies for the archaeological collection of more than three million artifacts and associated field notes, maps and site reports; and documentation for 3,000 archaeological sites. Need we say more?
5. **Historic Buildings, Structures, Objects and Traditional Cultural Properties** This section of the plan addresses the preservation, management, interpretation, and protection of buildings, structures and monuments. A building is a property that shelters people and a structure is a built property that is used for industrial or commercial purposes. A traditional cultural property is important for its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community’s history. Traditional Cultural Property Objects would include the original Washington, DC boundary markers or the monuments at Ox Hill Battlefield.
6. **Fairfax County Historic Overlay Districts** This section addresses issues relating to county Historic Overlay Districts established by the Board of Supervisors. The districts were established to protect

historic properties from visual or direct effects. Construction within a Historic Overlay District must be reviewed by the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board. Historic Overlay Districts include the Huntley and Sully Historic Overlay Districts.

7. **Listings** Listing Fairfax County historic sites on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, the Virginia Landmarks Register or the National Register of Historic Places is honorary and in the case of the Virginia and National Registers can make properties eligible for grants, and tax breaks. This section addresses the policy and parameters for listing local sites.
8. **Cemeteries** This section addresses the management and treatment of cemeteries on parkland and presents state policies for cemeteries. The cemetery at Frying Pan Church is an example.
9. **Cultural Landscapes** Cultural Landscape studies include an analysis of horticulture, historical documents, archaeology and landscape to provide a context for historic properties. The Cultural Landscape Report done for Historic Huntley provided information about what the property looked like when Thomson Mason and his family used it as a vacation home.
10. **Human Impact on Cultural Resources** Development, vandalism, relic hunting, encroachment by neighbors, even normal wear and tear; it’s all part of the human impact of cultural properties. This section provides strategies to address those impacts from such occurrences.
11. **Stewardship Education** What we learn about cultural resources has little value unless we share our findings with the public. This section addresses one of the most important components of the plan — sharing information and learning how you can participate in Cultural Resource Management, today and for the future.

The Cultural Resource Management Plan is expected to be adopted in March, 2006. If you would like to learn more about cultural resource protection or read the draft of the plan, email us at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources](mailto:www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources).

# Fairfax County's First Annual History Conference

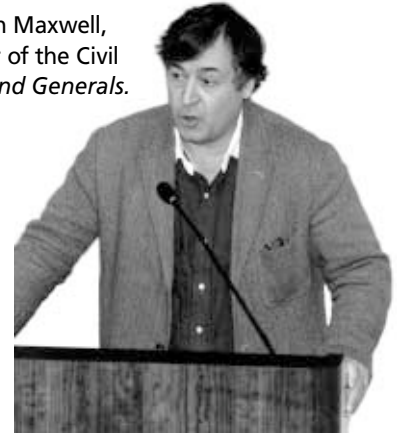
November 12, 2005, Herndon, Virginia

The newly renovated Visitor Center at Frying Pan Park was as packed as the agenda, with participants representing just about every historical society here and afar in Northern Virginia. There were book signings, speeches, panel presentations, history displays, and at every break, a whole lot of networking as attendees shared ideas and business cards. Welcome to Fairfax County's First Annual History Conference dubbed "*People, Places & Preservation*," organized by the Fairfax County History Commission in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Authority, the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, and the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board.

"Stewardship took a big leap forward today with the debut conference," said Michael Rierson, Resource Stewardship Branch Manager, "The conference marks the beginning of a county-wide unified voice and vision for preservation and restoration of the county's cultural heritage. By bringing everyone together, we'll be able to initiate and move forward on important projects that much faster and more efficiently."

Chairman Gerry Connolly of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors opened the conference and received strong applause for his leadership and vision of natural and cultural stewardship in the county.

Featured speaker, Ron Maxwell, producer and director of the Civil war epic, *Gods and Generals*.



In addition to small group sessions, there was a panel discussion called "Preserving our History" and a presentation of the Chuck Mauro and Bert Morgan video, "*The Battle of Chantilly*."

Featured speaker Ron Maxwell, who produced and directed the Civil War epics *Gods and Generals* and *Gettysburg*, spoke eloquently and passionately on the importance of preserving our country's heritage and the critical role Virginia plays, since so much of our nation's history took place here.

Hats off to Lynne Garvey Wark, Chair of the History Commission, for initiating and steering the conference, which will continue to serve a vital purpose in stewardship.

## STEWARDSHIP *continued from page 1*

We are involved in efforts to improve air quality through education and outreach and by modifying practices that affect air quality.

We are the environmental educators for the county. Our nature centers, historic sites, Green Spring Gardens, and RECenters all serve as places to educate our citizens. We work with countless school children to teach them about the environment. As you know, if we educate our children at a young age, it truly makes a difference.

We are also now launching a stewardship education campaign. This campaign will get the message out to our employees, county employees and citizens, that while the Park Authority may lead the effort, stewardship is everyone's responsibility.

We are also leading efforts to protect natural resources through policy. We've modified the Park Policy section of the Comprehensive Plan to strengthen the language to protect natural and cultural



Hal Strickland

resources. Recently, our Board got involved in the political arena of resource stewardship. We came out strong in opposing the preferred Tri-county parkway alignment, because it would impact the resources we must protect. This is an advocacy role we must play. We see the Board of Supervisors adopting green policies and working hard to find solutions to environmental issues.

We need to protect and enhance county resources and provide education and enjoyment of our parks, all with stewardship in mind. Our Board is looking at how to address this in our strategic planning for the next five years in order to fully establish our role and mission in resource stewardship. We hope the Board of Supervisors will be strong mentors and partners as we set out to do this.

It all adds up to building our quality of life in Fairfax County, working together as stewards to preserve and protect our parklands, and to educate and inspire our

families, workplaces and neighbors about stewardship. It is a challenge and a privilege to be entrusted to protect and manage the natural resources of this county. It's also a responsibility. And we accept and embrace it.

### THE BENEFITS OF STEWARDSHIP

The benefits of stewardship are far-reaching. Stewardship of our historic sites, parklands and green spaces bolsters individual and community prosperity. This includes protecting property values, promoting individual health, economic benefits by attracting the best talent and businesses to our community, reducing crime and promoting safety by increasing social capital through community interaction and events. To learn more about the social and economic benefits of stewardship, visit *Park Wise — Keeping Our Communities Healthy and Wealthy* at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resourcessu04.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resourcessu04.pdf)





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or: subscribe through our website at  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources)

*"Volunteering at our county nature centers and historic sites is the perfect antidote to the nightly news and the frenetic pace of life."*

— **HARRY GLASGOW**, Long-time Park Volunteer and member of the Park Authority Board

If you love being outdoors, gardening, storytelling, arts and crafts, history, wildlife, archaeology, working with people and being creative, then become a park volunteer. Join our dynamic volunteer staff today by visiting [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or calling **703-324-8750**.

*Read more about volunteering on p.5.*

## Add the Spirit of Virginia's Heritage to Your Next Event



Wakefield Chapel

It's time to take advantage of eight charming historic properties that are available to rent for corporate and nonprofit meetings and events, or family celebrations such as reunions, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. They're right here in Fairfax County! What an excellent way to add flair and atmosphere to your next event or celebration.

To rent an historic property or learn more, please call **703-938-8835** (TTY **703-750-2402**), email [hprs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:hprs@fairfaxcounty.gov), or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm)

## Farm Animal Babies

**KIDWELL FARM**  
at **FRYING PAN PARK**

Sheep, pigs, goats and cows deliver babies during late winter and early spring. January through April is the busiest time. Stop by often to visit the new arrivals.



Visit the park's website [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp) or call **703-437-9101** for birth updates.



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